

We are opposed to relaxing the current media ownership regulations. In southeast Michigan media consolidation has reduced breadth and depth of information available to the general public in newspapers and on the radio. In Detroit, the two newspapers, operating under a Joint Operating Agreement, have reduced investigative reporting to the extent of occasionally plagiarizing whole stories from the small, independent suburban chains, and of the local radio stations only the NPR affiliate regularly covers City Council activity. Even without under current ownership rules, some network affiliates have eliminated their local news operations. Diversity of sources is essential to balanced and complete information, which is in turn necessary to good public decision-making. Further relaxation of ownership rules can only erode further this essential public trust of television broadcasters.